

BURGLARY

DEFINITION

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. The use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary. Burglary in this Program is categorized into three subclassifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry.

TREND		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of offenses</i>	<i>Rate per 100,000 inhabitants</i>
1997	2,460,526	919.4
1998	2,329,950	862.0
Percent change	-5.3	-6.2

Burglary offenses were estimated at 2,329,950 nationwide in 1998, marking the seventh consecutive annual decline in volume. Distribution figures for the regions showed that the highest burglary volume, 43 percent, occurred in the most populous Southern States in 1998. The Western States followed with 23 percent, the Midwestern States with 21 percent, and the Northeastern States with 13 percent. (See Table 3.)

In 1998, monthly figures revealed that the greatest number of burglaries occurred in July, while the lowest volume was recorded during February. (See Table 2.26.)

Table 2.26

Burglary by Month

Percent distribution, 1994-1998

Months	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
January	7.9	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.9
February	7.1	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.5
March	8.2	8.2	7.8	7.9	8.2
April	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.8	8.0
May	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3
June	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.2	8.2
July	9.1	9.0	9.1	9.1	9.0
August	9.3	9.2	8.9	9.0	8.9
September	8.6	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.4
October	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.4
November	8.3	8.3	8.0	8.2	7.9
December	8.5	8.1	8.6	8.6	8.2

The national burglary volume declined 5 percent in 1998 compared to the 1997 total. By population group, the Nation's cities overall experienced a 6-percent decline; cities with populations of over 1 million showed the largest decrease—10 percent. Suburban counties recorded a 6-percent decrease, while rural counties experienced a 5-percent decline. (See Table 12.)

All four regions of the United States experienced decreases in 1998 compared to the previous year's burglary volumes. The Northeastern States declined 9 percent; the Western States, 8 percent; and the Southern States, 4 percent. Burglary volumes decreased 3 percent in the Midwestern States. (See Table 4.)

National 5- and 10-year trends indicate burglary was down 14 percent from the 1994 level and down 26 percent compared to the 1989 volume.

Rate

In 1998, the burglary rate nationwide was the lowest in more than two decades, at 862 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. The rate was 6 percent lower than the 1997 figure, 17 percent under the 1994 level, and 32 percent below the 1989 rate. In the metropolitan areas, the burglary rate was 900 offenses for every 100,000 in population; in the cities outside metropolitan areas, 885; and in the rural counties, 597.

Regionally, the burglary rate was 1,045 offenses per 100,000 population in the Nation's Southern States, 896 in the Western States, 776 in the Midwestern States, and 589 in the Northeastern States. A comparison of 1997 and 1998 rates indicate a decline of 9 percent in the Northeastern and Western Regions. The South and Midwest experienced drops of 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively. (See Table 4.)

Nature

Distribution by type reveals that 65 percent of all burglaries in 1998 involved forcible entry, 28 percent were unlawful entries (without force), and the remaining 7 percent were forcible entry attempts. Offenses for which time of occurrence was reported showed that 53 percent of burglaries happened during daytime hours and 47 percent at night. Two of every 3 burglaries in 1998 were residential in nature. Sixty-three percent of nonresidential burglaries occurred during the nighttime, while 60 percent of residential burglaries occurred during the daytime.

Losses estimated at \$3.1 billion were experienced by burglary victims in 1998. The average dollar loss per burglary was \$1,343; for residential offenses, \$1,299; and for nonresidential offenses, \$1,432. The 1998 average loss for both residential and nonresidential property decreased from the previous year's figures.

In 1998, nonresidential burglary volumes showed a 6-percent decline and residential burglaries dropped 4 percent from the previous year's figures. (See Table 23.)

Figure 2.12

Burglary

Percent Change from 1994

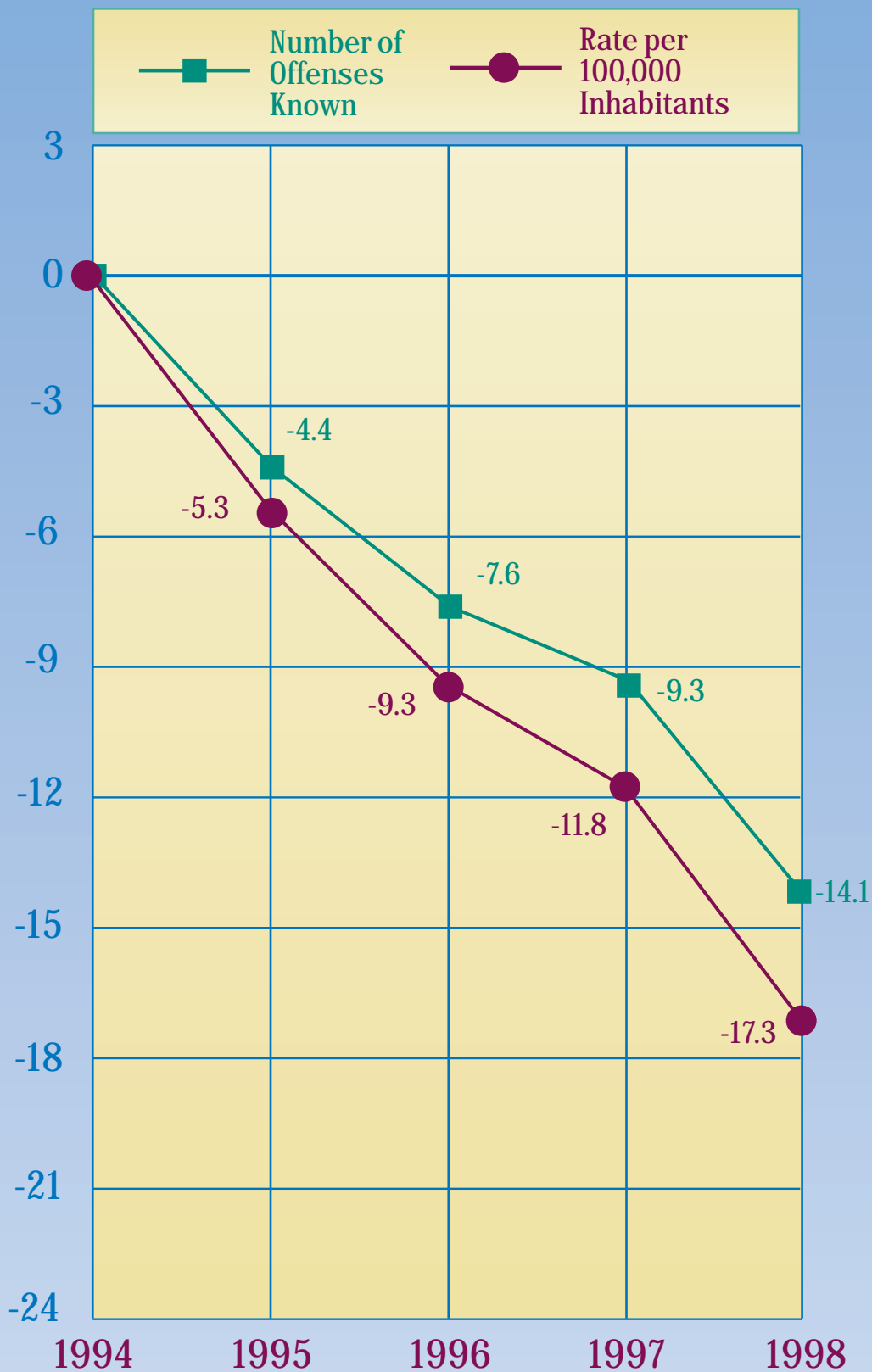
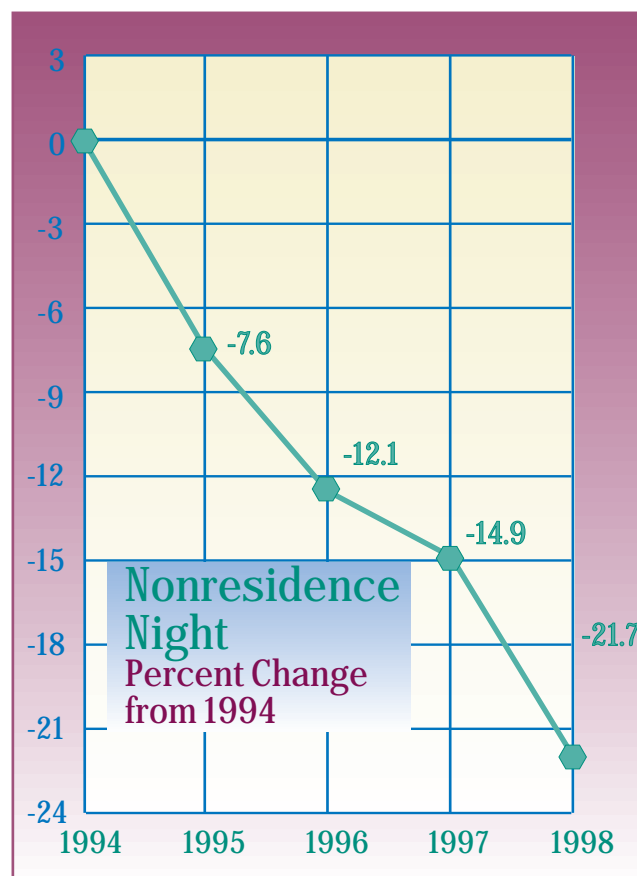
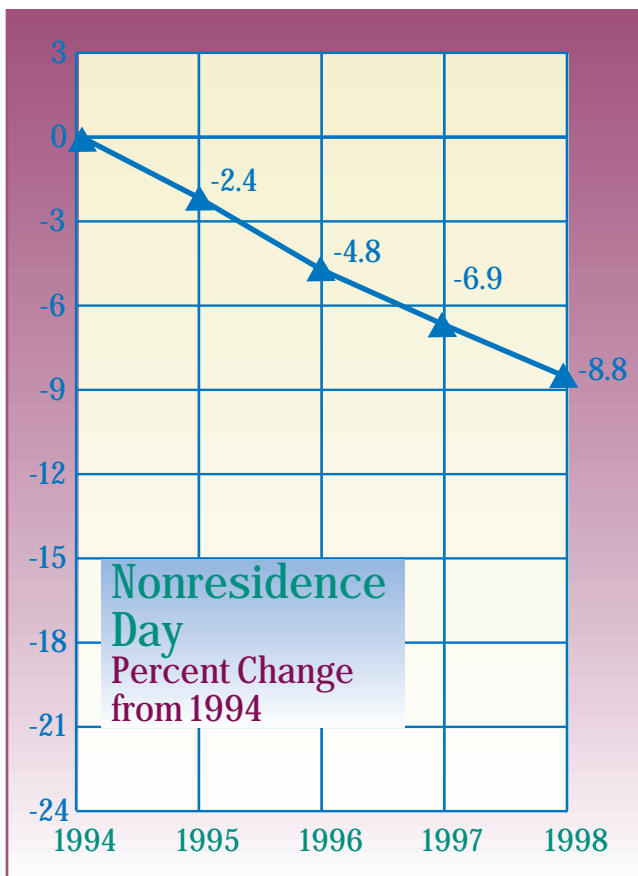
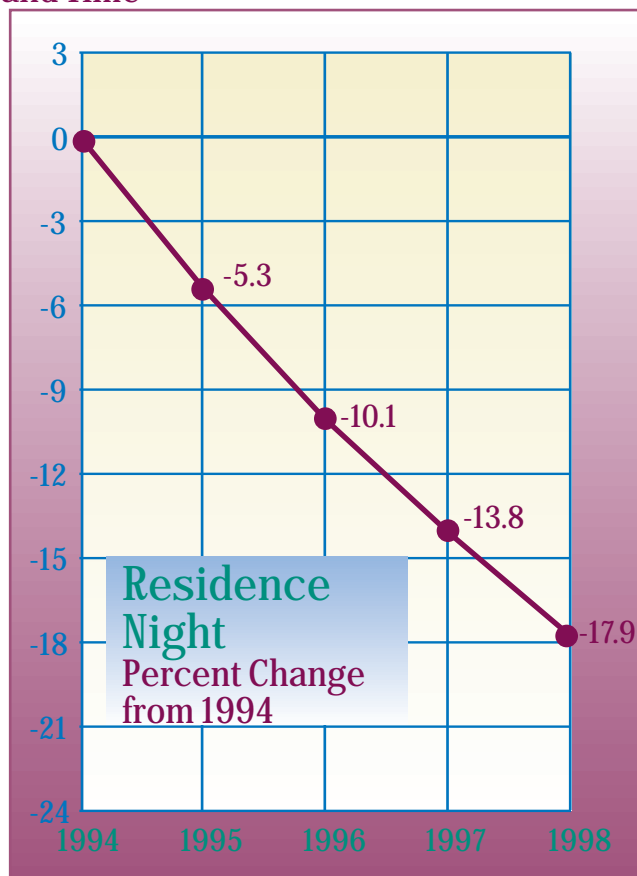
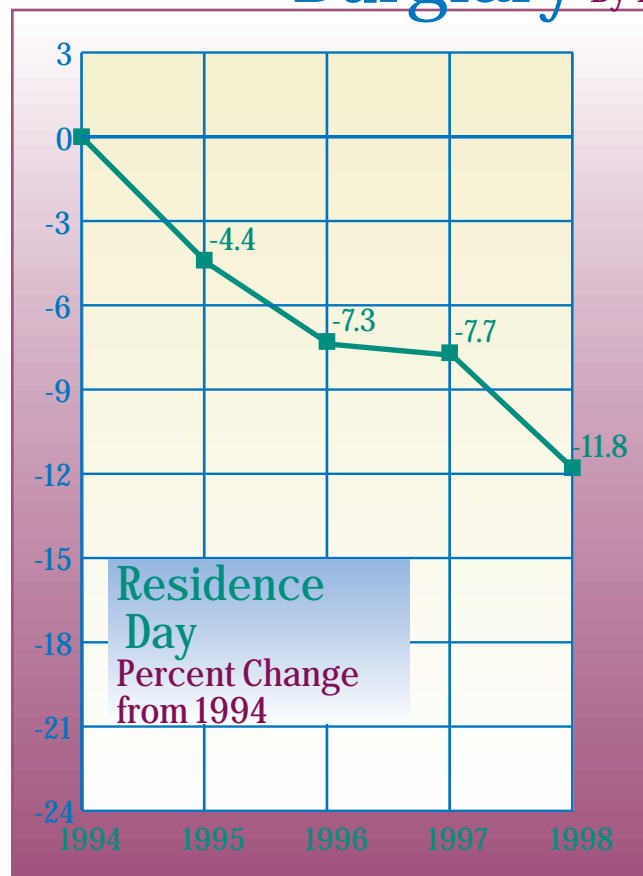


Figure 2.13 **Burglary** By Type and Time



Law Enforcement Response

In 1998, a 14-percent clearance rate was recorded for burglaries brought to the attention of law enforcement agencies throughout the country. The Northeast had a regional clearance rate of 16 percent; the South, 14 percent; the West, 12 percent; and the Midwest, 11 percent. (See Table 26.)

Rural county law enforcement agencies cleared 17 percent of the burglaries reported in their jurisdictions. Law enforcement agencies in suburban counties cleared 14 percent, and those in cities cleared 13 percent. (See Table 25.)

Adults were involved in 81 percent of all burglary offenses cleared, and the remaining 19 percent involved juveniles (people under 18 years of age). The Nation's smallest cities (under 10,000 in population) registered the highest degree of juvenile involvement with juvenile clearances at 26 percent. Juveniles comprised 22 percent of the burglary clearances in suburban counties, 20 percent in rural counties, and 19 percent in cities. (See Table 28.)

In the UCR Program, several persons may be arrested in connection with the clearance of one crime, or the arrest of one individual may clear numerous offenses. The latter is often true in cases of burglary for which an estimated 330,700 arrests were made in 1998.

From 1997 to 1998, total burglary arrests were down 5 percent. Arrests of juveniles and adults declined 9 and 4 percent, respectively. For the same 2-year time period, the total burglary arrests in the Nation's cities showed a 5-percent decrease. Burglary arrests in rural counties experienced a 6-percent decline, and suburban counties reported a 7-percent decrease.

Eighty-eight percent of the burglary arrestees in 1998 were males, and 64 percent of the total were under 25 years of age. Whites accounted for 68 percent of all persons arrested for burglary, blacks for 29 percent, and other races for the remainder.